

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01096 191214Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-20 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-02 A-01

L-03 H-03 CU-04 IO-14 DRC-01 /090 W

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O 191111Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9462

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1096

E.O. 11652;N/A

SUBJECT: RICHARD SAUNDERS

REF: PREOTIRA 1085 (C)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STORY FRONT-PAGED IN TODAY'S DAILY MAIL
UNDER FOUR COLUMN HEAD " ANGER RISES AT SNUB TO US ENVOY":
" THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS VIEWING IN A SERIOUS LIGHT
THE INCIDENT IN DURBAN ON FRIDAY NIGHT WHEN A BLCAK AMERICAN
INFORMATION OFFICIAL: MR. RICHARD SAUNDERS, AND HIS WIFE
WERE TOLD TO LEAVE A LOCAL NIGHT CLUB BECAUSE THEY
WERE NOT WHITE".

". WE HAVE ASKED FOR A FULL OFFICIAL EXPLANATION." A STATE
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IN WASHINGTON LAST NIGHT."

" AND IN PRETORIA, THE HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION
SERVICE, MR. PERRY PETERSON, SAID: ' WE ARE TAKING THE MATTER
UP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WE ARE VERY
DISTURBED ABOUT THE WHOLE INCIDENT.'"

THE MINISTTER OF FORIGN AFFAIRS, DR. HILGARD MULLER, SAID LAST
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 01096 191214Z

NIGHT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM ABROAD AND KNEW ONLY WHAT HE

HAD READ IN THE PRESS.

" AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS MADE NO APPROACH TO MY DEPARTMENT ON THE ISSUE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF MR. SAUNDERS HAS ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC STATUS IN THIS COUNTRY."

" ASKED ABOUT THE PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, DR. MULLER SAID THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER, HAD SAID ALL DIPLOMATS IN SOUTH AFRICA HAD THE SAME PRIVILEGES, WHETHER THEY WERE WHITE OR NOT."

" MY DEPARTMENT WILL LOOK INTO THIS, THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY."

" THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON SAID: 'WE EXPECT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES TO TREAT AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS WITH FULL DIPLOMATIC COURTESY.'"

" MR. CHARLES DIGGS, CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICA SUB- COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SAID: ' IT IS TYPICAL OF THE APARTHEID STATE OF MIND. THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE FOR IT. WE EXPECT A FIRM PROTEST TO BE MADE BY OUR EMBASSY OUT THERE.'"

" MR. SAUNDERS IS A 25,000 YEAR PHOTO-JOURNALISH AND INTERNATIONAL EDITOR OF TOPIC, AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE FOR AFRICAN CIRCULATION WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE HAS BEEN IN SA FOR THREE WEEKS."

" HE AND HIS WIFE, EMILY, WERE ASKED TO LEAVE ANIGHT CLUB IN THE BLUE WATERS HOTEL, DURBAN AFTER BEING INVITED THERE BY LOCAL JOURNALISTS."

" THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, REFERRING TO THE INCIDENT IN A STATEMENT IN PRETORIA YESTERDAY, SAID: ' IN MATTERS OF THIS NATURE IT IS UP TTO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOTEL.'"

" BUT THE MANAGER OF THE BLUE WATERS HOTEL, MR. R.J. OLDHAM, SAID LAST NIGHT: ' THIS IS SIMPLY NOT TURE.'"

" WE HAVE A LAW TO OBEY AND HAVE CERTAIN CHANNELS TO GO THROUGH. AMERICAN NEGROES ARE CLASSIFIED UNDER THE LAW AS BANTU, AND WE HAVE TO APPLY TO PRETORIA FOR PERMITS TO ALLOW THESE PEOPLE TO USE BAR AND RESTAURANT FACILITIES."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 01096 191214Z

" MR. SAUNDERS BOOKED INTO THE HOTEL AS A CORRESPONDENT AND NOT AS A DIPLOMAT. IF HE HAD TOLD US HE WAS A DIPLOMAT, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED."

" IN TERMS OF THE LIQUOR ACT, ANY BLACK WHO IS ACCREDITED TO THE REPUBLIC BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY IS EXCEPTED FROM THE CONDITIONS AND PROVISIONS APPLYING TO BLACKS IN WHITE HOTELS IN SOUTH AFRICA."

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ACCOMPANYING SIDEBAR SOTRY HEADED " DIPLOMAT
IN SECOND INCIDENT"

"MR RICHARD SAUNDERS, THE US PHOTO- JOURNALIST WAS INVOLVED IN A
FURTHER INCIDENT AT THE BLUE WATERS HOTEL LOUNGE. MR. SAUNDERS,
WHO WAS BEING INTERVIEWED BY AN INDIAN JOURNALIST, REFUSED BUT WAS
LATER APPROACHED BY THE SAME WAITER, WHO AGAIN ASKED THE TWO MEN TO
LEAVE THE LOUNGE.

"MR. SAUNDERS THEN TOLD THE WAITER: ' YOU'LL HAVE TO GET A
DAMN BIG POLICEMAN TO THROW ME OUT.' HE AGAIN REFUSED TO
LEAVE."

" A LITTLE LATER ANOTHER WAITER APOLIGIZED TO MR. SAUNDERS FOR
THE MISUNDERSTANDING."

"MR. SAUNDERS LEFT THE HOTEL YESTERDAY AND TRAVELLED TO ZULULAND
UNIVERSITY TO LECTURE STUDENTS THERE."

" IN AN INTERVIEW FROM THE UNIVERSITY LAST NIGHT, HE SAID HE
HAD BEEN HURT BY THE INCIDENT AT THE NIGHT CLUB."

"IT HURT ME MORE BECAUSE I WAS WITH MY SOUTH AFRICAN HOSTS.
THEY HAD TO SUFFER THE EMBARRASSMENT WITH ME."

"I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY OF THE RESTRICTIONS AND I FEEL I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF THEM BY THE MANAGER BEFORE HE PUT HIS
STAFF ON TO ME".

"MR. SAUNDERS SAID THERE WAS A TOUCH OF IRONY ABOUT THE WHOLE
INCIDENT."

"WE DID NOT EVEN GO THERE TO DANCE, NOT TO DRINK. WE JUST
WENT THERE FOR A MEAL".

"IT IS ALSO IRONIC THAT THE ENTIRE REPERTOIRE OF THE MUSICAL
COMBO WAS WRITTEN BY BLACK MUSICIANS. I HAD TO STAND AND WATCH
THE SENSUAL GYRATIONS OF PEOPLE DANCING TO THE SENSUOUS BEAT OF
HANK CRAWFORD, ROBERTA FLACK AND ISAAC HAYS... ALL BLACK
AMERICANS." REGARDS.

PETERSON

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